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BUCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
DR. A. CATHCART, M.B. Ch.B., D.T.M. & D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1962.



COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
BUCKLEY,
FLINTSHIRE.



Miss Catherall and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Buckley Urban District for the year 1962.

The 1951 Census gave a population of 7,699 (3,793 males and 3,906 females), as compared with the 1931 Census of 7,053, (3,626 males and 3,427 females), an increase in the population of 646 or a percentage of 9.2% in 20 years.

The estimated population for June 1962 is 7,720, an increase of 30 since last year.

The total number of live births was 138, 19 more than in 1961, and in consequence the birth rate is 18.7 per 1,000 of the population in 1962 as compared with 16.1 per 1,000 of the population in 1961.

For comparison with other areas the rate is 18.7 which is higher than that for England and Wales, which is 18.0 per 1,000 of the population.

The total deaths recorded during the year is 107, which is 4 more than in 1961, so that the death rate corrected is 15.5 per 1,000 of the home population. It is higher than the rate for England and Wales, which is 11.9 per 1,000 of the home population.

There were 2 deaths in infants under one year of age, giving a rate of 14.4 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales is 21.4. There was one still-birth, this gives a still-birth rate of 7.2 as compared with a rate of 18.1 for England and Wales.

The principal cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, which accounted for 49 of the 107 deaths during the year, so that 45.8% of all deaths occurred in this group of diseases (17-21 inclusive in the Table - Causes of Death.)

Cancer accounted for 20 deaths, 8 more than in 1961. Cancer accounted for 18.5% of all deaths. There were 4 deaths from cancer of the lungs or bronchus, the same as the 1961 figure, 2 males and 2 females.

This year there were no deaths from tuberculosis. Accidents accounted for 5 deaths in 1962 as compared with 3 in 1961.

There was no maternal death in 1962, and no deaths from diphtheria.

As regards infectious diseases, notifications were light throughout the year.

In conclusion, I must express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of your Health Committee and all your Officials, particularly Mr. R. Messham, whose local knowledge is invaluable, and your Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. Harwood, who supports me loyally.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

A. CATHCART.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1962.

Area (in acres)	2677
Population (Census 1951)	7699
Population (Estimated 1962)	7720
Density (number of persons per acre)	2.89
Number of inhabited houses	2504
Number of occupied houses owned by Local Authority	628
New houses certified	31
Births (live)	138
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of home population)	18.7
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	18.0
Deaths	107
Death Rate (per 1,000 of home population)	15.5
Death Rate (England and Wales)	11.9
Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	14.4
Death Rate of all forms of tuberculosis (Rate per 1,000 population)	0.0

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2677
Population (Census 1931)	7053
Population (Census 1951)	7699
Population (Estimated June 1962)	7720
Number of inhabited houses	2504
Rateable Value	£77345
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£255

The Buckley Urban District Council is situated in a foothill of the Clwydian Range to the North East of the County of Flint, and is bounded on the North, East and South by the Hawarden Rural District and in the North, West and South by the Holywell Rural District.

The subsoil is clay in the greater part of the area. Below are the lower coal measures, now very little worked. The principal industries are Cement, Brick, Tile and Pipe Works, together with Agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1962

ESTIMATED MID-YEAR HOME POPULATION - 7720.

Comparability Factors.

Births: 1.04

Deaths: 1.12

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	Birth Rate per 1000 Home Population
Total	67	71	138	18.7
Legitimate	67	70	137	17.74
Illegitimate	-	1	1	.13 (.72%)

STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1000 total (Live and Still Births)
Total	1	-	1	7.2
Legitimate	1	-	1	7.2
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-
2. " - other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningoccal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective - parasitic disease	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	2
11. " " - Lung Bronchus	2	2
12. " " - Breast	-	-
13. " " - Uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasm	6	4
15. Leukaemia - aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	9	8
18. Coronary diseases - angina	13	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1
20. Other heart disease	3	6
21. Other circulatory disease	-	2
22. Influenza	2	-
23. Pneumonia	2	2
24. Bronchitis	7	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy - childbirth - abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformation	1	2
32. Other defined or ill-defined diseases	4	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	1	4
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<u>57</u>	<u>50</u>

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Public Health Officials of the URBAN AUTHORITY consist of:-

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A. Cathcart, M.B. Ch.B., D.T.M. & H.D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector - D. Harwood, M.A.P.H.I.
Certificate R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Foods Inspector
Diploma Advanced General Hygiene - R.I.P.H. & Hy.
1st Class Certificate Sanitary & Domestic Engineering.
Diploma R.S.H. Smoke Inspector.

NURSING IN THE HOME - The Flintshire County Council employ District Nurse/
Midwives, the services of whom are available to the residents of Buckley.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE - Five qualified Medical Practitioners reside in the
Buckley area; of these five, four are Principals in practice and three have
assistants. Altogether, Principals and Assistants, there are eight Medical
Practitioners available for the population of Buckley and contiguous rural areas.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. - This work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory
Service at Chester.

HOSPITALS - ISOLATION. - None. Infectious cases requiring isolation are now
admitted to an Infectious Diseases Hospital at Colwyn Bay, Wrexham or Clatterbridge.

SMALLPOX - None.

TUBERCULOSIS - None. Cases from the area are sent to the Meadowslea Hospital,
Penyffordd, about three miles away, and may be transferred from there on the
recommendation of the Chest Physician to the Chest Hospital at Llangwyfan, near
Denbigh.

MATERNITY - None. The Catherine Gladstone Maternity Hospital is situated at
Mancot, approximately four and a half miles away. Pathological cases may be
sent to one of the Chester Hospitals.

CHILDRENS - None. Children are hospitalised at the Chester Royal Infirmary,
Maelor General Hospital, Wrexham, or occasionally, in special cases, at the
Childrens' Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool.

GENERAL HOSPITALS - Emergency cases may be sent to the Royal Infirmary or City
Hospital, Chester, or occasionally to the Mold Hospital.

PROVISIONS FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS - ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS - Provision is made by
the County Council at Bersham Hall.

MENTAL HEALTH - The supervision of cases under the Mental Health Act, 1959, is
carried out by the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - This service is provided by the County Council.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - There is an Anti-Natal Centre and Infant Child Welfare Centre conducted by the County Council at the New Clinic, Buckley, the former on the first and third Monday afternoon and the latter every Monday afternoon.

DAY NURSERIES - None.

SCHOOL CLINICS - A School Clinic is supervised by the County Medical Officer of Health and his Assistants, and is held on Tuesday of each week in the New Clinic, Buckley.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES - None in the area. There is a Chest Clinic at "Oaklands" Queensferry, at which the Chest Physician and his Assistant see patients once a fortnight. There is also a Clinic every Monday and Thursday afternoon at Meadow-slea Hospital, Penyffordd.

VENEREAL DISEASES - None. Cases are sent to the Special Clinics at the Royal Infirmary, Chester, by arrangement between the County Authorities and the Chester Royal Infirmary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	13	-	-
Cerebo Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Measles	43	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Acute Polio Myelitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1962

	Acute Polio Myelitis	Cerebo Spinal Fever	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery
Under 1 year								1					
1 & 2 years								3			2		
3 & 4 years											9		
5 to 9 years								1			31		
10 to 14 years								2					
15 to 24 years											1		
25 and over								6					1
Total Cases Notified								13			43		1
Cases sent to Hospital													
Total Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1962.

NEW CASES					DEATHS			
<u>Age Periods</u>	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified	Cases Treates		Unimpaired	Impaired	Blindness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

This Section of the report has been prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. Harwood, and it deals with the work he has carried out over the past twelve months.

Visits have been made to various types of premises on a routine basis and all complaints have been attended to without delay; however, as reported last year, it has not been possible to inspect all the premises in the area, and thus, factories and shops not selling food have had to be left over. The main emphasis has been in connection with nuisances, slum clearance and food hygiene work.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is supplied by the Hawarden and District Waterworks Company, and over the years, difficulties have been experienced due to lack of quantity and pressure. After various representations, schemes were agreed upon, firstly for a new mains supply to the Prenbrigog Reservoir, and then for new mains to be laid through the town so as to overcome the problem. At the end of the year the new supply had been connected to the reservoir, and plans were being prepared for the new main in the district. It is hoped that by mid 1963, a major part of the town will have an adequate supply of water for its needs and future development.

Nine samples of water were analysed and found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

In April, 1962, two of the three licensed slaughterhouses closed down, the remaining one being granted a licence until 31st December, 1962.

The 1st April, 1962, was the appointed day under the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations for the Slaughterhouse Construction Regulations to become fully effective.

Once again I am pleased to report that all animals slaughtered have been of a very good class, and that only minor items of food have had to be condemned.

There is, however, one condition worthy of note, and that is Cysticercus Bovis. This disease is found in all classes of beef, and this year there have been three carcasses so affected. In all cases, the part containing the cyst has been condemned, and the remainder placed in cold storage for the prescribed period.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses for meat inspection	136
Number of animals slaughtered .. Beasts 71. Sheep 329. Pigs 86 ...	486
Number of animals inspected	486

Items found to be unfit for food:-

Offal (mainly livers)	174 lbs.
3 Beasts - Cysticercus Bovis	
(Horns 2. Skirt 1.)	
(Carcasses treated by cold storage.)	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SECTION 16.

At the end of the year, there were 43 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, and rooms registered for the manufacture of sausages. 29 samples were submitted and all the ice-cream was provisional Grade 1. The ice lollies were also satisfactory.

MILK AND DARIES.

Since 1949 control of milk production has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960, Food and Drugs Authorities issue all licenses to dealers in designated milk - in this area, Flintshire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority, thus they deal with all licenses and sampling of milk.

HOUSING.

This year has again shown steady progress in the building of council houses and the clearance of slum properties - if this progress continues within the next three or four years, all slum property will have been dealt with in this area.

Number of council houses built 104.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

HOUSING ACT, 1957. SECTION 42.

Number of Clearance Areas Declared in 1962	4
Number of houses in above areas	55
Number of houses demolished in Clearance Areas declared prior to 1962	6

SECTION 16.

Number of houses reported to the Council as individual unfit houses not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit	33
Number of Undertakings accepted	1
Number of unfit houses made fit for habitation	0

SECTION 17.

Number of Demolition Orders made	35
Number of unfit houses demolished	9
Number of unfit houses closed	16
Number of inspections made re above	247

SECTIONS 9 and 18.

No action was taken under these Sections.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 AND 1961.

Verbal Notices Served	6
Verbal Notices Complied with	4
Number of Informal Notices Served	71
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	45
Number of Statutory Notices Served	55
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with	43
By Owner	33
By Local Authority	10

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE.

Many visits have been made to the various food premises in the area, and there has been a slight improvement in the general standard of food premises, and also in food handling. It is, however, a major problem in Buckley, as old habits die hard, and many traders do not appear to welcome modern methods.

Several reports have been presented to the Council and serious warnings have been given to various food traders, but there is still a lot of work to do on this subject, and it may be necessary in 1963 to adopt a very firm attitude if a reasonable standard is going to be obtained.

A Food Hygiene Exhibition was held in August for a period of three days, whilst the exhibition was quite good, the attendance was rather disappointing. I am sure that many persons would have become more food hygiene conscious if they had attended.

Number and Type of Food Premises at the end of 1962:-

Slaughterhouses	1
Butchers	13
Bakers	4
General Grocers	33
Greengrocers	9
Fried Fish Shops	9
Cafes	2
Licensed Premises, Canteens, Clubs	30
Shops selling mainly Sweets, Minerals, Ice-cream, etc.	<u>9</u>
	<u>110</u>
Inspections made	<u>217</u>

RENT ACT, 1957.

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair this year; there are, however, many such certificates still in force where the owner is not prepared to do the necessary repairs for the small increase in rent obtainable.

In many of the above cases, action can be taken under the Public Health Acts to secure the abatement of nuisances, but there are other cases where the tenancy is uncontrolled, and thus the tenants fear to complain to the Public Health Inspector because of the danger of receiving a Notice to Quit from the owner. This can be a very difficult situation, as the Public Health Inspector is, by statute, required to secure the abatement of nuisance and other housing defects. In one case, a family were evicted as a result of Notices being served. I am pleased to be able to report that the Council found them alternate accommodation.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The major portion of the built up areas^{are}/served by sewers, and other schemes are being considered in order to enable the whole area to be sewered. This is a most desirable plan, as septic tanks and their effluents are often the cause of complaint, whilst pail closets are unsatisfactory from all points of view. By the end of the year, plans had been approved and a tender had been accepted for a large scheme of sewerage.

Total Number of Pail Closets - December 1962.....199

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A new refuse vehicle was purchased late in the year, and with one additional loader, it has been possible to maintain a weekly collection of refuse. Also a trade refuse scheme is now being operated at a charge of 6d. per bin.

The Belmont Tip was closed in December, and all refuse is being tipped down an old unused mineshaft; considerable work had to be done to enable the shaft to be used in this way, but it is proving successful.

I am also pleased to report that the majority of houses in the area now have proper dust bins and that no ashpits are in use.

RODENT CONTROL AND INSECT PESTS.

Infestations have been of a minor nature, and such areas around the refuse tip and sewage works are treated regularly by the Rodent Operator. Insect pests are satisfactorily dealt with by using a powder insecticide.

Number of Premises Treated:-

Rats: 186	Mice: 7	Insect Pests 5
Estimated Kill: Rats 788	Mice 75	

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Most of the large factories in this area are under the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate, and any cases of excessive smoke are referred to such Inspectors. Complaints have been few, probably due to Buckley being situated on a hill, thus the smoke does not hang over the town area. The local foundry is to install modern equipment during 1962 which should help to reduce the amount of fumes and dust discharged.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The Swimming Bath, situated behind the Public Library, was a gift of the Miners' Welfare Committee. The water is supplied by the Hawarden and District Waterworks Company, and is filtered, chlorinated and aerated continuously throughout the season. Early in 1962, alterations were carried out, and Buckley can rightly be proud of their modern Swimming Bath.

SCHOOLS.

SITUATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

Elfed Secondary Modern	Liverpool Road	Hawarden Water Company
St. Matthews	Church Road	" " "
St. Matthews Infants	Church Road	" " "
Lane End Infants	Chester Road	" " "
Bistre Church of England	Mold Road	" " "
County Primary	Padeswood Road	" " "

A new Primary School is now in course of erection and should be completed early in 1963.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

No. of Inspections Made

Water Supply	22
Drainage	77
Fried Fish Shops	15
Houses let in Lodgings	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	14
Factories	9
Stables and Piggeries	1
Licensed Premises	6
Refuse Collection	57
Refuse Disposal	89
Rats and Mice	8
Atmospheric Pollution	13
Miscellaneous	62
Pet Animal Shops	2
Water Samples Taken	9
No. of houses inspected (Public Health Acts)	50
Re-inspection of above houses	117
No. of houses inspected (Housing Acts)	44
Re-inspection of above houses	34
No of houses inspected re overcrowding	2
Miscellaneous housing visits	169
Slaughterhouses	208
Meat Inspection Visits	136
Butchers	26
Canteens	3
Fishmongers and Poulterers	2
Food Preparing Premises	17
Grocers	54
Greengrocers	7
Ice Cream Premises	38
Restaurants	3
Food Hawkers	1
Bakeries	10
Misc. Food Visits	4
	<u>1311</u>

ANALYSIS OF DEFECTIVE CONDITIONS.

<u>Type of Defect.</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Drains	14	12
Water Closets	12	11
Water Supplies	12	12
Sinks and Waste Pipes	1	1
Dustbins and Ashpits	51	46
Roofs	11	9
Chimneys & Flues	2	3
Fire Ranges	4	5
Eaves Gutters & Rainwater Pipes	12	7
Damp Walls	21	20
Plastering (Walls & Ceilings)	21	20
Floors	4	2
Windows	15	11
Doors	7	8
Yard Paving	3	-
Accumulation of Rubbish	1	3
Staircases	3	2
Ventilation	2	1
Dangerous Buildings	2	2
	<u>198</u>	<u>175</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1962 FOR THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUCKLEY IN THE COUNTY OF FLINT.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of
the Factories Act 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	9	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises.)	3	-	-	-
Total	33	9	1	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Insptr. (4)	By H.M. Insptr. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	3	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	3	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 & 111)

N I L



